

FIRST QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST
Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)
Project Title: ORCATAD, Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development
Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD
Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 01/02/2007 to 30/04/2007
Due date of this Quarterly Update: 15 th May 2007

<i>Project Budget</i>	EUR 315 800 €
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	EUR 103 334 €
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	EUR 0 €

I. Introduction

The implementation of the partnership was delayed further to a specific institutional context. It led to two main consequences: the opportunity to diversify the network of indirect partners associated with the project and a reorganization of the calendar of the first activities. At this level, the permutations carried out do modify neither the methodology nor the objectives. Indeed, due to the beginning of rainy season, the priority was granted to field activities whereas activities related to new information technologies and the organization of the opening workshop were postponed without any consequence for the project.

No expenditure was still spent. Only the working time of researchers (Cirad and Nafri) was engaged.

II. Implementation of Activities

Due to the beginning of the agricultural season, it was thus necessary to start with the field, namely:

- the activities 2b relative to the implementation of the demonstration plots, initially planned from the second quarter;
- the 2c activities relating to the quality of agricultural practices through the study of the soil fauna quality.

In parallel, a bibliography relating to each topic (1c and 2a) is in progress and updated regularly.

On the other hand, the activities of installation of the internet site (1a), of the electronic forum (1b) and the opening workshop (1d) had to be postponed consequently. Their effective implementation is planned in August and September 2007.

III. Partnership

The partnership with the National Institute of Agronomic Research and Forest (NAFRI) was long to be set up because of:

- the reorganization within the Ministry for Agriculture and Forests (MAF) of the RDP Lao,
- the relative difficulty to sign the contract of partnership between CIRAD and NAFRI due to the contents of this contract, NAFRI was not accustomed to such a level of detail in the description of engagements.

This expectation period was made profitable to pack more largely the framework of the indirect partnership through existing or new project, and to better integrate the ORCATAD project in a larger network working on the agriculture of conservation, in particular:

- The National Program in AgroEcologie (PRONAE) and the Sectoral Program in Agroécologie (PROSA) also associating the MAF/NAFRI to CIRAD on financings of the French co-operation (FFEM, AFD); this will reinforce all the activities of demonstration plots installations as well as training activities;
- The project AIM (Agriculture Information Management) associating the competences of NAFES Technical divisions of the information and communication (National Services for Agricultural and Forestry Extension) and those of NAFRI. This partnership will allow to extend the results and to disseminate the issues on information and training to the whole national network of popularization up to the finest level (village groupings) in the zones defined as a priority by the national policy of rural development.


In parallel, relations are established with the commercial sector via Lao Trade Promotion Center, in particular through its network of diversified partnerships (public and private), and of its capacities to find, mobilize and disseminate quickly information relating to the national, regional and international markets.

IV. Methodology

The modifications in the calendar do not have any consequence on the employed methodology and described in the project.

V. Other Issues

We are facing difficulties due to the necessary procedures for the purchase of equipment. Indeed, the obligation of grouped purchase and in situ of the whole of the equipment poses problems in terms of availability of the required equipment, procedures of tax and obtaining the certificates of origins. The authorization to purchase in Europe some equipment would have facilitated these steps.

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SECOND QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST
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Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)

Project Title: ORCATAD, Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development

Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD

Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 30/04/2007 to 31/07/2007

Due date of this Quarterly Update: 30 Th July 2007

<i>Project Budget</i>	EUR 315 800 €
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	EUR 103 334 €
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	EUR 0 €

I. Introduction

After signature of the documents, the programmed activities were installed with a field orientation. A certain number of direct and indirect partners of the project were invested during this quarter. As agreed the starting workshop of the project will be organized in September.

II. Implementation of Activities

The sites of demonstration (not financed by the project) were developed for different activities. The people implied in the project (agronomist, technicians) took part in the creation and the follow-up of these sites for training and visits.

Visits were made for farmers, specialists of popularization, policies and financial backers (French Agency for Development, Asian Bank for Development, French Embassy).

On the training level, 20 DAFEOS technicians of Nam Ngum project (not financed by Orcatad) were trained on the demonstration sites on external financing. In the same way students of the Faculty of Agronomy of Nabong were trained on the same sites on agricultural techniques (DMC) and on soil biology.

Workshops (not financed by Orcatad) but which are in direct relation with Orcatad (information, communication, training and trade and market) were implemented at Sayaboury and Xieng Khouang.

Within the framework of the installation of link between the production and the markets, discussions took place with Lao Trade Promotion Center. They related to the analysis of the experiments passed about the installation of Market Information System on the installation of 2 pilot provinces, on the choice of the markets and the choice of the provinces to be taken into account within the framework of project ORCATAD

The building of Orcatad web site was initiated. One hopes for its inauguration for the workshop of September 2007.

In soil biology, sampling of soil fauna and soil were carried out in June/July. Nearly 144 samples of soil and 716 samples of fauna were taken. These samples were taken with the collaboration of the students of the Faculty of Nabong and the technicians. A thorough formation will be programmed thereafter for the students.

In parallel, the bibliographical studies carried out by our partner of Wageningen University continue. These studies are a precondition to its field survey which will start in September at the time of the workshop.

III. Partnership

The starting of the partnership with the National Institute of Agronomic research and Forest (NAFRI) made it possible to launch the terrain surveys through the various visits, formations and biological sampling.

Most of the activities (soil biology, demonstration plots, visits and training) profited from the partnership established between the National Program in AgroEcologie (PRONAE), the Sectoral Program in Agroécologie (PROSA) also associating the MAF/NAFRI the CIRAD and ORACATAD project.

The discussions initiated with Lao Trade Promotion Center aimed to ensure the link between the production (MAF) and the markets (MIC). These discussions will make it possible to target the provinces, to define the specific activities (to improve the transmission of information between MAF and MIC, further trainings, links with the websites, specific Internet site ORCATAD, links with the Committee in the Plan and the Investments: CPI).

IV. Methodology

According to the evolution of the project, the method employed and described in the document of project is always applied.


V. Other Exits

The programming of the workshop of starting of the project is planned for Friday September 21. According to the availability of the people, one proposes to organize a

field visit for the collaborator of EU of Lao and our partners of Wageningen University and Lao.

VI. Financial aspects

In addition to the assumption of responsibility of the wages of the agronomist and formative technicians of the NAFRI, the principal expenditure the taking away carried out as regards soil biology concerned.

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THIRD QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST
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Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)

Project Title: ORCATAD, Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development
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Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD

Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 01/08/2007 to 31/10/2007

Due date of this Quarterly Update: 15 th November 2007

<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>315.800,00 EUR</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>103.334,00 EUR</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>2.288,98 EUR</i>

The Update will also include brief information on the project expenditure.

I. Introduction

It is the third quarter of the project. The major event of this period was the launch workshop. It was the occasion for field visits which made it possible for all the partners to see clearly the current dynamics.

II. Implementation of Activities

This launch workshop of the project (activity 1d) presented the ORCATAD project to all partners implied, policy makers and others funders. Following upon the field visits intended to illustrate the agro-ecological techniques and the agrarian dynamics in the mountainous provinces, (North of Laos), this workshop was held in Vientiane Friday, September 21st.

The direct partners of the project as well as the associated partners (projects of research and rural development, working in the topic of the agriculture of conservation and the agro-ecological techniques, diverse services of communication) were present. Furthermore, representatives of various Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the Ministry of Industry and commerce, the Lao Trade Promotion Center, financial backers (EC, AFD, SIDA), of the educational sector (National University, Faculty of Agriculture of Nabong) and of the private sector (LAO Farmers products) attended this workshop. The diverse presentations and discussions which followed each

other one underlined the strong interest of the national and private authorities concerned by the project.

At the same time, the constitution of the bibliography relative to every topic (1c and 2a) is in progress and of update. Also, the activities of setting up and follow-up of demonstration plots (2b) and of characterization of the quality of the practices by the characterization of the soil biological activity (2c) are in progress. Numerous visits and training courses were realized in interaction with the partner projects (PRONAE, PROSA and PASS). Furthermore, a mission of sensitization was led in the province of Champassack very strongly involved in the commercial sector towards the export around the Bolovens-Plateau and cash crops (Coffee, Tea and Rubber). It was decided to set up in 2008 in this new province some demonstration plots and to carry out to training sessions.

The collection and the layout of documents necessary for the constitution of the initial data base are in progress (4a). The activities of implementation of the web site (1a) and of the electronic forum (1b) continued and their application is planned for the end of 2007. We remind that; of the fact of the postponement of the opening project and according to crop calendars, the priority was attributed to the field activities.

III. Partnership

As a supplement to the partnership already described during the reports of the first one and of the second quarter of activities, a new partnership strongly developed with the Faculty of Agriculture of Nabong (National University) to include Agro-Ecology in the academic programme. At the same time, the mission of sensitization realized in the province of Champassak allowed to establish links with the authorities (Province, Districts), Services (PAFO, DAFEOS) and local institutions (University and Agricultural School).


IV. Methodology

The methodology of creation, training, extension and communication proposed by the project is constantly operated in narrow interaction with the projects of Research and Rural Development associated (PRONAE, PROSA, PASS). The relevance of this methodology should quickly lead (beginning of 2008) to the holding of a national seminary in Agro-Ecology topic, to answer most effectively possible for the governmental request (extension of techniques in agriculture of conservation). The trade sector will strictly be associated with this seminary.

According to the evolution of the project, the method used and represented in the project document is always applied with only some calendars modifications of execution (preference attributed to the field activities, 2b and 2a and postponement of activities 1a, 1b and 1c).

V Other Issues

The purchase of equipment for 1) communication activities and training support (computer and broadcasting) 2) laboratory (balance, stereomicroscope) is envisaged for the end of 2007.

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FIFTH QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST
Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)
Project Title: ORCATAD (Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development)
Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD
Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 15/02/2008 to 15/05/2008
Due date of this Quarterly Update: 15 th May 2008

<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>EUR 315.800,00</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>EUR 103.334,00</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>EUR 63.654.57 €</i>

The Update will also include brief information on the project expenditure.

I. Introduction

The major event of this period was the mission of Lie Rico from Wageningen University from February 28 to March 14, 2008. This expert is involved in the activities 3b, 4c and 5b.

II. Implementation of Activities

According to Lie Rico, "ORCATAD (Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development) is a European Union funded project aiming at promoting conservation agriculture in Lao PDR. In its slipstream it aims to enhance export capabilities. The core of the project consists of the development of a knowledge base of best practices in the field of conservation agriculture. This knowledge base will serve different purposes through the use of ICTs. On the one hand it will be used to improve training and extension services for farmers and farmer groups and on the other hand it will also target at small and medium agro-based enterprises and intermediary business organizations. Partners in the project are the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) from France, the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) from Lao PDR and Wageningen University (WU) from the Netherlands."

Under the umbrella of this project, we have been searching for the expertise of different stakeholders such as government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

(MAF), staff from NAFRI and NAFES, officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, from extension personnel at the district level, from traders, from communication and ICT specialists and from people working in international organizations such as FAO and the EU. Topics for discussion were appropriateness, content, relevance and use and distribution of such a database.

The database is centralized in the ORCATAD project. This means that the main question is reformulated into questions such as: How can the database be made of relevance to different kind of end-users? How can the content of the database best be structured? How can the same information on best practices be presented and accessed? What is the best entry for each type of end-user? How can the sustainability of the database be secured?

The database has three missions: 1. to **conserve information**, 2. to operate through providing a **pool of educational material**, and, 3. to act as a **promotional and advocacy tool**.

Therefore, the objective of the database is three-fold. First, it wants to conserve a knowledge base for the agricultural sector at large by presenting a selection of exemplary practices and related materials in conservation agriculture. The second objective is to operate as a pool of educational material to be used by extension service providers and educational institutions operating in the same domain. Third, it also wants the database to be of relevance as a promotional tool in the domain of (international) trade and as an advocacy tool in the domain of policy making (at different levels). Through building upon up-to-date, basic and concerned information it aims to be a promotional tool for traders and an advocacy tool for decision makers. As such it will emphasize issues of sustainability (environmental health, economic profitability and social and economic equity).

III. Partnership

The mission of Lie Rico allowed to put in contact direct, on the field the main partners were involved in the project (Nafri, Wageningen University and Cirad).


IV. Methodology

The methods used in the work carried out by Wageningen University expert are:

- Bibliographies in Conservation Agriculture, Communication, Education and Trade, Communication – Innovation and Development, Extension, Training of Farmers and Farmer Field Schools, ICTs (incl. open source) and (Agricultural) Development, Trade
- Relevant information on the internet
- Networking

V Other Issues

Regarding to the activity 2c (“Verifying eco-friendly products through chemical and biological soil quality”), chemical and biological analyses were done on samples taken in 2007 (data treatments were done also). These results will allow to target better the next sampling to be made in 2008 and 2009.

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SIXTH QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST
Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)
Project Title: ORCATAD (Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development)
Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD
Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 15/05/2008 to 15/08/2008
Due date of this Quarterly Update: 15 th August 2008

<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>EUR 315.800,00</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>EUR 103.334,00</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>EUR 63.654,57 €</i>

The Update will also include brief information on the project expenditure.

I. Introduction

A two days (17 -18 of June) field visit has been organized for policy-makers. A delegation, conducted by H.E. Dr. Sitaheng RASPHONE (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry) and H.E. Mr. François SENEMAUD (French Ambassador in Lao PDR), has visited the activities conducted in the south of Xaybaury province in the field of Conservation Agriculture. Representatives of EU (Mr. Henry TUCKER and Mr. Mel JONES), UNDP, MAF departments (Dr. Phouangparisack PRAVONGVIENGKHAM - DoP, Mr. Anonh KHAMHUNG, Mr. Soulivanthong KINGKEO, Mr. Khamson SYSAHOUTH), AFD (Mr. Etienne WOITELLIER, Ms. Sylvie PICARD, Miss. Aurelle DEROMEMONT) and of the projects (Mr. Bounmy RATTANATRAY, Mr. Khamkeo PANYASIRI) were associated to this visit.

II. Implementation of Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Project launch, preparation of a website and selection of field areas

a) Open the project website

The project website has been finalized by NAFRI webmaster and will be opened during the coming term. It will be linked to NAFRI Website www.nafri.org.la.

b) Prepare and organise an initial workshop in Lao PDR

A regional conference in the field of Conservation Agriculture is planned at the end of October 2008. The countries of the GMS region will attend this event as Vietnam, Yunnan Province of China, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. The main objectives are to:

1. *Discuss on research and extension approaches* and transfer of knowledge for different stakeholders (farmers, extension officers, agronomists, traders, educational sector, and policy-makers) and to analyze the main constraints in up-scaling CA alternatives.
2. *Develop a knowledge base in the field of Conservation Agriculture* based on the experiences of the different countries of the GMS region in creating and validating CA and DMC systems.
3. *Strengthen and facilitate exchanges* between countries of the GMS region and to promote regional exchanges and synergies in the field of Conservation Agriculture.

During the present term NAFRI, CIRAD and concerned department of MAF and others ministries (MOFA of Lao PDR) have participated to several meeting to prepare this event. It is also expected to organize national exchanges between different stakeholders (farmer representatives, private entrepreneurs, banking services, extension and research agencies, educational sector and policy-makers) to identify the main constraints to scale-up conservation agriculture practices and highlight the tasks of these stakeholders within this dynamic.

ACTIVITY 2: Implementation of conservation techniques

a) Establishing demonstration plots

Under the support of MAF, NAFRI and French cooperation (AFD, French global environment facility) several demonstration fields (56ha) have been implemented in the southern district of Xayabury province and in Xieng Khouang. A large range of no-till and intensive cropping systems (high biomass restitutions) are tested. These sites serve two main objectives:

- Analyse the biological, chemical and physical processes that drive CA practices,
- Train extension officers and farmers on how to implement no-till and intensive cropping systems using local knowledge and indigenous species.

b) Verifying eco-friendly products through chemical and biological soil quality

Several students from Nabong faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural School of Luang Prabang are involved on soil chemical, physical and biological characterization. Several thematic are covered:

1. Impact of tillage, no-till and intensive cropping systems on soil macrofauna (3 students).
2. Decomposition rate of cover crops (2 students).
3. Impact of tillage, no-till and intensive cropping systems on soil physical and chemical attributes (aggregation, bulk density, Soil Organic Carbon, CEC...) (3 students).
4. Relationships between above and belowground dry matter for a range of cover crops and edible crops (1 student).

In soil biology (activity 2c), a sampling mission was done from July 3rd till July 20th at Kenthao in the Province of Xayaboury. Samplings concerned the soil macrofauna and the soil. These sampling benefited from the collaboration of the students of the Faculty of Nabong and from the Nafri and Pronae technicians. Eight hundred samples of soil macrofauna were taken and about 150 samples of soil. The analyses of biodiversity (macrofauna) and the soil microflora activities will allow to characterize and to qualify the agricultural systems based on plant covers (eco-friendly practices). The results of 2008 will be compared with those of 2007 to verify the durability of these agricultural practices.

ACTIVITY 3: Training of farmers and extension services

a) Prepare multimedia documents

A first set of multimedia documents are under process including: Terminology in the field of Conservation Agriculture, 2) Main principles of Conservation Agriculture, 3) and training materials on Soil fertility management.

b) Fields visits

Crossing visits have been organized with representatives of farmer groups, extension officers and heads of *kum ban pattana* (120 persons) from Xayabury and Xieng Khouang from 21st to 27th of July. During these days exchanges have been organized between farmer groups.

Participatory exercises have been implemented with farmers to:

- Establish an understanding of the gaps in knowledge and attitudes regarding the implementation of conservation agriculture amongst target farmers,
- Gain a general sense of what information products farmers would like to see in these areas,
- Investigate the different types of media farmers respond well and poorly to and why.

Through this participatory process we have a better understanding of what farmers want in the way of information, what they know and understand already and what products have been useful to them in the past.

ACTIVITY 4: Building up of the knowledge base

a) Building the core of the knowledge base

During this term NAFRI has developed an agreement with *Lao Software Development and Services Section* to define the structure of the database. It is expected to build this data base during the coming term.

Connecting the database of exemplary practices in conservation agriculture to the website of NAFRI seems the most logical option for positioning the database. It emphasizes the research component of the enterprise and profits from the established position of NAFRI in Laos.

The NAFRI website is well developed and incorporates already a database consisting of documents relevant to agriculture in Laos (LAD-Lao Agricultural Database


<http://lad.nafri.org.la/lad/index.html>). The NAFRI website could as such well develop into a focal point for exemplary practices in the area of conservation agriculture.

III. Partnership

IV. Methodology

In soil biology, the same methods were applied. For the soil macrofauna diversity, TSBF method (Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility, Lavelle and al. 1993) was used. As regards the soil, composite samples (3) for every level of sampling (0-10 cm, 10-20 cm and 20-30 cm deep) repeated 3 - 4 times according to treatments were realized.

V Other Issues

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Signature:	

SEVENTH QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Asia-wide Programme: ASIA-INVEST	
Contract reference no.: LA/Asia-Invest II/04 (128402)	
Project Title: ORCATAD, Open Resource on Conservation Agriculture for Trade and Development	
Name of Beneficiary: CIRAD	
Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 01/08/2007 to 31/10/2008	
Due date of this Quarterly Update: 15 th November 2008	
<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>315.800 EUR</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>103.334 EUR</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>EUR</i>

I. Introduction

It is the seventh quarter of the project. In addition of the main activities (in relation with building of the website and knowledge base, fields visits, training of trainers...) the major specific events of this period and co-organized by ORCATAD and others projects was:

- the first agricultural and trade fair in Lao PDR based on conservation agriculture (CA)
- the regional workshop on CA,
- the first national days on CA.

These events were funded by few donors, mainly, French cooperation (AFD, MAE, FFEM, and CIRAD) and UE (Asia-Invest/ORCATAD).

II. Implementation of Specifics Activities

Agriculture fair in Phonsavan – From 29 October to 02 November, 2008

This agriculture fair is the first national event on Conservation Agriculture and Agro-biodiversity in Lao PDR.

Several activities will be presented as follow (More than 10 000 people attended the fair):

1. Animal raising, sale and exhibition: Improved pig sty (breeders, foodstuff and pig sty daily demonstration of pig sty building), Animal fair/sale: cattle, pig, goat and sheep, Animal contest/exhibition;

2. Production means for agriculture: Agriculture equipments (SCV, hand-tractor, thresher, pump...), Animal foodstuff and animal care, Seeds: horticulture, rice, maize, legumes, forage..., Fertilizers: mineral and organic;
3. Agro biodiversity: Local foods & dishes, Art contest on Agro biodiversity, Local products: rice, tea, fruits, coffee, NTFPs;
4. Handicraft: Local products: umbrella, carved wood, silk and weaving, Agricultural fair trade products...;
5. Agro-industrial processing: Food processing, Solar and others renewable energies...;
6. Projects, Agriculture schools & universities, international institutions: Place to display information on current activities and practical outputs...;
7. Cultural animations / events: Dance and traditional songs, Bull's fight...
8. Fieds visits,

Regional workshop on conservation agriculture, Investing in Sustainable Agriculture: The Case of Conservation Agriculture and Direct Seeding Mulch-Based Cropping Systems, 28 October - 1 November 2008, Phonsavan, Xieng Khouang. China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Cameroon, Madagascar, France.

Three main objectives have been defined for this workshop:

1. Discuss on research and extension approaches and transfer of knowledge for different stakeholders and to analyze the main constraints in up-scaling CA alternatives.
2. Strengthen and facilitate exchanges between countries of the GMS region and to promote regional exchanges and synergies in the field of Conservation Agriculture.
3. Develop a knowledge base in the field of Conservation Agriculture based on the experiences of the different countries of the GMS region in creating and validating CA and DMC systems

Four plenary sessions are scheduled as follow:

- Session 1: Agronomy and economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems.
 - Agronomic and economic performances of CA/DMC systems
 - Integration between CA/DMC systems and livestock components
- Session 2: Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties.
 - Impact of conventional practices on natural capital
 - Environmental services (ES) provided by CA and DMC: carbon sequestration, biodiversity, water efficiency...
 - Definition of Payment for environmental services to support the conversion of conventional agriculture into DMC
- Session 3: Determining factors in up-scaling technologies and innovative systems.
 - Conditions for the adoption of CA and others alternatives
 - Extension Approaches
- Session 4: Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders.
 - What kind of structural and institutional tools to promote technologies and innovative systems
 - Tools and materials for training and communication

Four working groups are scheduled as follow:

- WG 1: Training and communication materials to be exchanged between countries of the GMS region on CA and DMC topics
- WG 2: Research topics and methodologies to be shared between teams working on CA and DMC systems in the countries of the GMS.
- WG 3: Environmental services evaluation and Payment for environmental services perspectives in the countries of the GMS
- WG 4: Alternatives and approaches to be integrated to promote sustainable agriculture at landscape level in Lao PDR

An Information Market was also set outside the meeting hall to offer participants an additional mean to exchange information, network and share experiences.

National Days in Conservation Agriculture, Xieng Khouang, 30 October to 01 November
2 meetings were planned:

1. Training and teaching Sector with representatives of 10 national schools and faculties of agriculture. The main objective is to discuss about how to integrate Conservation Agriculture in the national courses.
2. Extension Sector with More than 150 representatives of extension workers of the Sayaboury, Xieng Khouang, and Champassack provinces. The main objective was to build an action plan to extend conservation agriculture in 2009 and so ecofriendly products.

III. Partnership

In addition of the main activities already described in the previous quarterly updates, the National Agricultural and Forestry Research Instituted was one of the main co-organizer of these three different events and also made many communications on conservation agriculture.

And Dr Rico Lie from Wageningen University participated also to these events and made 2 communications about communication methodology and knowledge base building.

IV. Methodology

(No change from the initial methodology proposed)

V Other Issues

During this same period, a mission of monitoring of the ORCATAD project was led by Inna Bayda (ECORY, Research and Consulting, Business development consulting and support) at the request of the EU. This mission attended the 3 events at Phonsavan, Xieng Khouang Province.

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